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Letter dated 25 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Rwanda in response to Security Council resolution 1468 (2003) (see annex).

I would be grateful if the Statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Rwanda in response to Security Council resolution 1468 (2003)

Rwanda welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 1468 (2003) on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Rwanda rejoices with the United Nations Security Council fo the recent progress made in the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD and hopes that the United Nations shall continue to hel Congolese parties overcome the few remaining obstacles particularly the establishment of the security mechanisms for th transition government.

Rwanda appreciates the deep concern expressed by the UNS on the situation in Ituri and at the rising tension betwee Rwanda and Uganda. Rwanda shall continue to work for th full implementation of the Lusaka and Pretoria agreements, b encouraging the Congolese parties to complete the ICD an seeking full compliance with the Pretoria agreement from th DRC government. On the Ituri situation we shall expec tangible pressure to obtain an immediate withdrawal of Ugandan and Kinshasa forces and a deployment of a neutral force i Bunia and at all strategic points.

Rwanda wishes to take this opportunity to draw the attention o the UNSC and the international community at large that th alarming situation prevailing in Eastern DRC is a result of th gross violations of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and th Pretoria Agreement.

1. With regard to the Pretoria Agreement, Rwanda on her part totally withdrew all her troops from the DRC within the specified 90 days deadline.

   Whereas the Kinshasa Government was supposed to disarm and repatriate the EX-FAR/Interahamwe, it has instead continued to support them, enabling them to take over most of the positions previously held by Rwandan forces, in violation of the Kampala and Harare disengagement plans. These forces have been receiving arms and ammunition through the airfields of Minembwe, Kilimba, Mwenga, Kilembwe and Shabunda and through Lake Tanganyika and are now poised to attack Uvira and Bukavu, thus threatening Rwanda. **Such a situation is unacceptable.**

2. In another flagrant violation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, and the Kampala and Harare disengagement plans, the Kinshasa Government in connivance with the Government of Uganda, has deployed its forces in the Beni, Butembo, Lubelo, Bunyantenge and Kanyabayonga areas linking up with the EX-FAR/Interahamwe in North Kivu. These forces are operating jointly with an objective of taking control of Masisi, Rutshuru and Goma, thus threatening Rwanda. **This new threat is also unacceptable.**

3. The concept of Ituri Pacification Commission (ICP) is a creation of the Luanda Agreement and seeks to enable the Kinshasa government to reassert its authority in Ituri, an area controlled by rebel movements. The ICP provision of the Luanda Agreement is therefore in violation of the Lusaka agreement.

Furthermore, Uganda having been the architect of all the Ituri conflicts can not be allowed to define the contours of the workings of the Ituri Pacification Commission. In addition, it is abundantly clear that the current war in Ituri is between UPDF and UPC. As such, an effective ceasefire can only be between the two protagonists UPDF and UPC. Indeed since the signing of the so-called "ceasefire" in Ituri, UDPF has continued its military campaign against UPC and captured Munbgwallo, Fataki and Bule.

In conclusion, Rwanda thinks that given the situation in the Kivus and Ituri, MONUC and TPVM should be, a matter of urgency, re-enforced and enabled to take control of all airfields and ports in Eastern DRC in order to check re-supplying and infiltrations of forces.

Done at Kigali, 24th March, 2003.